Secta. II-27—100,000—22-5-48.

Ed P. H (1948) Department.

MS SERIES.

G.O. No. 2132 P. H

Dated 23 6 48

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[Despatch Abstract.]

Public Health- Provincial and District Health Centres Bhore Committee's Recommendations- Papers Recorded.

The file deals with the recommendations of the Bhore Committee for the constitution of a Provincial Health Board at the headquarters of the province and a district health board at the head quarters of each district.

2. The Committee's recommendation for a Central Board of Health has been separately dealt with and it has been held in the concerned file that there would be no objection to such a Board provided it is invested with purely advisory functions and is not given any power to recommend grants to provinces as suggested by the committee.

3. Provincial Health Board.

The suggestion has also been made that a Provincial Health Board will be necessary for the formulation of health policy for the province and for the making of recommendations in respect of the grants to be sanctioned by Provincial Government for Health Schemes in local areas. There is at present a Statutory Public Health Board for the Province constituted under section 4 (1) of the Madras Public Health Act., 1939, composed of the Minster for Public Health, Minster for Local Adminstration, the S.G. D.P.H., Sanitary Engineer, three non-official members of the Madras Legislature and one other officer of Government nominated by Government. This body advises Goverment on public health matters referred to it by Government. There is a proposal separately under consideration for a Water and Drainage Board to advise Government on water supply and drainage schemes. When this new body is set up, water supply and drainage will be removed from the purview of the PH Board.

The Central Provincial Health Conference held in October last in New Delhi has passed a resolution moved by H.M. (P.H.) Madras, that in the Provincial Health Board practitioners of Indian Medicine should be given due representation, wherever possible. The P.H. Boadd constituted under the M.P.H. Act 1939, will be concerned only with preventive public health matters, and representation for medical practitioners (Indian or allopathic) as such, will be unnecessary on the Board.

In connection with the Bhore Committee's suggestion that the Minstry of Health should be responsible for all health services including those pertaining to other departments, such as Edn. Prisions, Railways etc., it has been suggested that a plan for co-ordinated action should be evolved by the Public Health Board and that for this purpose it should have on it pepresentatives of the other departments concerned. To give effect to this suggestion it has been proposed that suitable amendments should be made in the Madras Public Health Act providing for the representation of the departments in question on the Board and for other connected matters. It is considered sufficent if the existing statutory Public Health Board with constitution and functions enlarged in this manner continues to function.

4. District Health Board.

The committee's suggestion is that in the place of the existing multiplicity of local health authorities with thie separate staff there should be a single health authority over the whole area of the district operating through a unified executive staff. In the committee's opinion such a health authority may be the district health board to which will be trasferred all the public health functions now exercised by the different local bodies in the district. Acceptance of this proposal will involve fundamental changes in the statutory set-up of local administratio changes which even in the interests of efficent adminstration will be unnecessary in view of the relief afforded to local authorities by means of provincialization of public health and medical

institutions and staff, subsidies for education and transfer of Highways. It is therefore considered that local bodies may continue to discharge the duties and perform the functions relating to health, as hitherto, and that it is neither desirable nor necessary to set up a district health beard involving as it does, drastic changes in existing local self Government frame-work- L.A. Agree.

5. After orders are passed, a draft letter to the Government of India will be submitted for approval, as the subject of a Provincial Health Board was discussed by the last Central Provincial Health Conference and the proposal for district health boards might be discussed at a futnre meeting of that conference.

6. The case may be circulated to H.M.P.H. and M.M.L.A. for orders on 'M' and 'N' above.

True Copy.

NOTE FILE;

The case relates to the Bhore Committee recommendations regarding the constitution of a Provincial Board of Health and District Health Boards. It was intended that the file should be circulated for orders on the points made in the summarising note on pages 9-11 ante, and that the papers connected with the committee's suggestions relating to the functions of the Health Minstry should be linked with this file. The file on the later subject has now become G.O. No. 3270 P.H. dated 27-9-47 and was not available for a few months as it had been put up in another file.

2. Meantime, however, the points dealt with in this file have been included in the general note on the Bhore Committee's Report which has been forwarded to the Government of India, after obtaining orders in circulation on those points. (M on p 10 ante and N on p 11 ante) Please see A & B on p. 8 of Letter No.138 P.H. Dated 17-1-1948.

3. No further action is therefore necessary on this file. The papers may now be recorded.

ORDER;
G.O.Ms. No.2132 of 23-6-48.
Recorded.
Public Health-Provincial and District Health Boards-
Bhore Committee's recommendations papers recorded.

True Copy.

Superintendent,
Madras Record Office.

MG.

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